

1206  
1674  
A Strange and Wonderful  
R E L A T I O N  
F R O M  
SHADWEL

O. R.  
The D E V I L V i s i b l e.

B E I N G

A most true and faithful account how the Devil  
in human Shape, on the 3d. of this Instant  
July, made his Appearance to a Gentle-  
woman there, (a person that had formerly lived  
well, but now reduced to poverty) with a  
Bag of Money in one hand, and a Knife  
in the other, tempting her to Murther  
one of her Children.

As also how she refused, and resisted his Tempt-  
ation, Imploring the Prayers of her Neigh-  
bours, of whom, two plainly saw this evil  
Spirit, going forth of the House.

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L O N D O N,

Printed for W. Smith, in the Year, 1674.

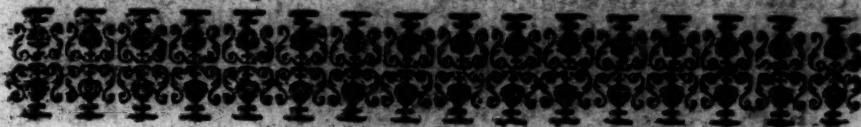
# ИМДАН

Unde a vijsimone et vijsimone sursum  
Tunc in vijsimone et vijsimone exponit et in

— and I did believe this, but it was not wod on it.  
— And so at last I did believe it.  
— And wst vissigowt his son, and he  
— sith he is to do it again.

Teak Dog

1921-1922. In the summer of 1922, the author was invited to speak at the annual meeting of the New England Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, held at the Boston Public Library.



## A

*Strange and Wonderful Relation from  
Shadwell,*

O R,

*The Devil visible.*

**T**HOUGH the prodigious swarm of Pamphlets, which of late the over-teeming Press hath Spawnd into the World, may have rendred in a great measure, such Relations both suspected and Contemptible; yet the certainty of the matter that Impregnates this sheet, the nearness of the place where it happened, and the notoriousness of the thing, seems not only to deserve, but challenge and require, that a full and faithful Account thereof should be presented to the publicke; Since the same is done not so much to gratify peoples vain Curiosity, or tickle those Itching Ears which (like the Idle Athenians of old) are perpetually Listening after strange Novelties. As to Alarm and awaken all, by so fresh and present an

Example to stand upon their Watch, and Guard themselves (as they value the safety and Salvation of their precious Immortal Souls) with the whole Armor of God, but especially the shield of Faith, against the Assaults of the Enemy.

For though it be most true, as the Sacred Oracles of Divine Writ testify, that this restless Enemy of mankinds peace and happiness, hath ever since he beguiled our first Parents in Paradize, gone too and fro as a roaring Lion, seeking whom he may devour. Yet we find by wo woful Experience, that in this latter and worst Age of the World, his malicious and Hellish Industry is encreased more than ever; And (as all things move with a Swifter and more violent motion the nearer they approach to their Center) so this dreadful Tyrant Prince of the Air, apprehending his Chain to shrink, and that he must shortly be tumbl'd into, and confined for Eternity in that bottomless Pit, prepared for him and his seduced Servants Endeavour's with greater diligence and more openly to spread his Nets, and Inveagle as many as he can into the same Lake of Perdition with himself.

For certainly no good Confederate Christian, can but with grief of Soul have observed, what a plentiful (but most deplorable) Harvst he has lately made amongst us, by those numbers that in or about this very City, have been drawn by his subtle suggestions, and the mediation of diabol, within few weeks, last past, to lay violent hands upon themselves, and cut off the thred of their own Lives, by hanging themselves, drowning themselves, breaking their

own Necks, cutting their own Throats, and the like  
evil means wherewith our Laws are daily Alarm'd,  
Contrary both to the Laws of God, and dictates of  
Nature, in whose Charter self-preservation has been  
always accounted the first Article.

But this Proemium (though it soberly considered,  
not altogether Impertinent) may perhaps seem too  
great a Gate for so small a Fabrique, and therefore  
we hasten to the intended matter, being truly and  
briefly thus.

In the Parish of St. Paul Shadwell (nately made  
so by Act of Parliament, being formerly a Hamlet  
or part of Stepney) lives a Woman, who descended  
of good Parents; who besides the Presibus Legacy  
of an honest Fame left her, when she y. paid that debt  
which we all owe to Nature, a handsome Compe-  
tency of the Goods of Fortune, she having to the  
value of three hundred Pounds to her Portion,  
And being left by their decease in so Creditable a  
Condition, wholly at her own dispose, she Spun not  
on the Thread of her Life very many Years, before  
she twisted it in Matrimony, being Marri'd some  
Years since to an honest Seaman of good Repute,  
namely whose promising Industry assisted by  
her before mentioned Fortune, Seru'd to bespeak  
their marriage happy, and probably assure to the re-  
mainder of their Lives a comfortable subsistence;  
But as truth it self has told us, That the Race is not  
always to the Swift, so Experience daily convinces that  
there is a vast difference between human likelyhoods  
and the Mysterious decrees of Fate. For notwith-  
standing

gaining these advantages by some unhappy accidents rather than defaults properly chargeable on either of them, their estate began sensibly to waste, and in time to be totally consumed, that they were now reduced to the very Brink of necessity, having not sufficient left to maintain or provide Bread for her self, and several small Children which she had brought into the World, the thoughts of whose pining and half Starving Condition, and Consideration of her Husbands absence (who is at present gone a long voyage to Sea) so that she could not for a long time expect any Relief from him, put this poor distressed Woman of late into such a melancholly grief, that seem'd to border on despair, so that she was seldom alone, but she was bewailing her misfortunes with passionate Complaints, whilst her languishing Checks over-flow'd with a briny ocean of Tears.

Satan (that has ever Tutor'd wicked Polititians to Fish in troubled waters) was not wanting here to practise that Maxim himself. That subtle degraded Seraphin knows two well, that want is one of the readiest and most open Inlets for his Temptations, and therefore designs, whilst her mind is lost in this dismal Tempest, to Ship-wreck her Soul.

For on the third of July last, she being extraordinarily straitned, so that she knew not what to do, and being retired (as is usual with melancholly distressed and afflicted persons) up into a Chamber, that with more freedom she might bemoan her Condition, In broad day light this ever busy Tempter presents himself to her, who, having at her coming into the Room shut the doory which still to her apprehension

(5)

sion had Convinced last, was not a little surprized to see a man (as by his form she at first Judged him to be) there intruding on her privacy, and standing just by her. But was much more astonisht, when she beheld in his right hand a naked knife, and in the other a large Purse filled as it were with money, and was just ready to cry out when this Apparition began to speak to her.

Who spoke in smooth language, and a low but shifil Insinuating voice represents, 'That he well knew her wants and distress, and that he came there on purpose in pity to relieve them, But that if she would not hearken to his advice, she should be ten times more miserly than she was at present; For her Husband was dead, and no succour to be expected from him. [mark here the truth of the Gospel, saying, the Devil was a Lyar from the beginning.] That she had a most Insupportable Charge of Children, and that she should never be happy till she had lessen'd their number, that her youngest Child which then (poor Babe) happened to be Innocently sleeping on a Bed in the same Room, besides the present miseries it suffered, was born to much greater misfortunes which it must undergo, and therefore she should now come and dispatch it from those afflictions and ease her own Charge, by killing of it, which he would secure her should never be known or discovered, and that thereupon he would give her all that money in the Purse (holding it forth) and more from time to time, so that she should never want, and upon that proffered her the knife to execute what he perswaded her to.

The

The poor Woman in a fright, and Just Indignation at this horrid bloody proposal, and some other Symptoms, concluding it could be no other but the Devil, which could advise her to such a barbarous Impiety, began with a devout fervency to detect an Action so abominable, and calling on the name of the Lord, run down stairs and into the Street, where meeting some of her Neighbours at the door, she with an amazing vehemency, intreated their Prayers to God for her Protection.

Immediately after her coming down, two of these Neighbours plainly saw the likeness of a tall man in black Habit come down stairs, and so into the street by them, but he did not seem to walk as men do, but rather glide along like a shadow, and at a small distance disappear'd, but though they spoke and pointed at it, yet, neither the woman nor any of the rest could then see it.

Several Divines and other sober persons have been since with her, who confirms the truth of this Relation, and for this latter are these two other persons are both ready to attest it, for the Satisfaction of any judicious enquirer, the Woman her self remaining still in trouble of Spirit, and desiring the Prayers of all good Christians to Almighty God for his Grace, that as by the same in this grievous and terrible trial, so at all times hereafter, she may be enabled to withstand the wiles of the Tempter, to whom to less (which is gibberish) less odious in whom and his own blood he cast in it of course to make more trial of her than upon her before her Execution.

For I N N

